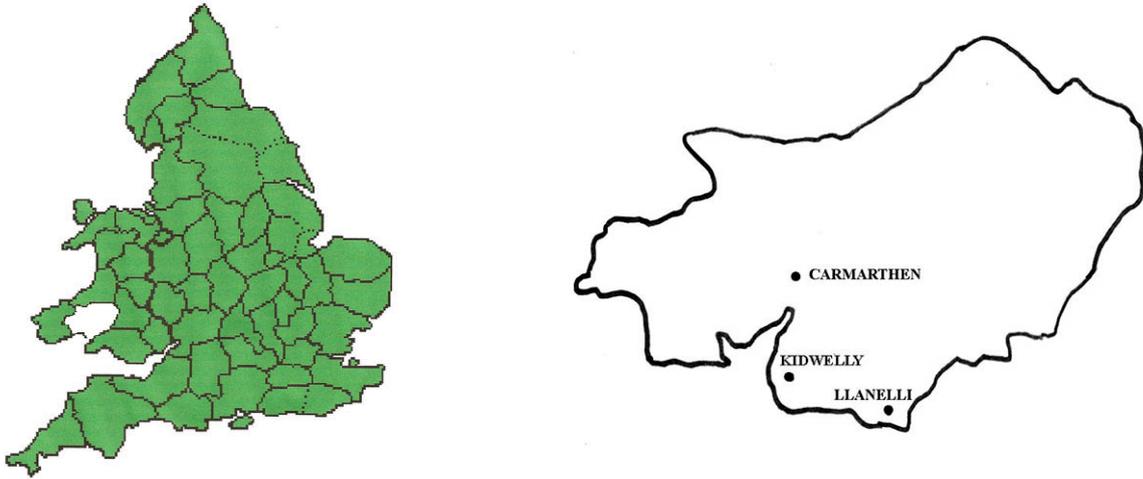


CARMARTHENSHIRE



The county of Carmarthenshire is an historically important part of West Wales. The town of Carmarthen was for many centuries the largest in the whole of Wales. The county is bounded by Pembrokeshire to the west, Cardiganshire to the north, Breconshire and Glamorgan to the east, and the sea to the south.

From 1834 to 1847 the inspection of weights and measures in the county was based on the traditional seven hundreds, three of which operated jointly as the 'three commotts'. In 1847 three divisions were established, and in 1877 the county police force took over responsibility. Some police constables passed the qualifying examination in 1892. In 1899 the duty of inspection was separated from the police, and two divisions were set up.

The town of Carmarthen was a county of itself, and exercised separate authority over weights and measures until it was united with Carmarthenshire in 1944. There were two other ancient boroughs, Llanelli and Kidwelly. Imperial standards were issued to 'Llanelli' in 1825, but inspection was apparently done by the county officers. Kidwelly also obtained imperial standards, and operated independently until it was disqualified in 1889.

There is no evidence of a specialist scalemaking trade in Carmarthenshire in the nineteenth century, the sale and repair of scales and weights being carried on by local ironmongers. W&T Avery had premises in Llanelli from about 1910 onwards.

A: Inspection by the County of CARMARTHENSHIRE

Dates	Events	Marks	Comments
1825	One set of standards [33] verified		5 hundreds (as below) and the Liberty of the Three Commotts.
1834	Five inspectors appointed.		<i>Inspectors 1834-47</i> Elvet: Thomas Thomas (-1847) Cathinog and Lower Perfeth: William Evans (-1847) Cayo and Upper Perfeth: William Garner (-1841) John Garner (1841-47*) Derllys: John Jones William Thomas (-1841-47) Three Commotts: Thomas Lewis (-1847*)
1843	Police force set up.	C A R N	
1844	Discussions begin to reorganise inspection, using two divisions and then a single inspector.		
1847	Three divisions. Another set of standards [971] verified.	3 C	
1849	Proposal that police should act as inspectors rejected.	 VR CN I	<i>Inspectors 1847-77</i> <i>No 1: Eastern/Upper (Llandilo)</i> * John Garner (-49) Thomas Parry (1849-77) <i>No 2: Western (St Clears, Carmarthen)</i> Thomas Parry (1847-49) Thomas Richards (1849-76) James Saer (1876-77*) (pol) <i>No 3: The Three Commotts (Llanelli)</i> * Thomas Lewis (-55) Owen Thomas (1855-70) Samuel Powell (1870-77)
1856	Llanelli weight standards [53] (used in the Three Commotts) reverified (Llandilo standards used during reverification). The marks DN1 and DN2 have been seen, possibly indicating district numbers.		D N 2
1877	Police take over inspection.		
1879	Fourth inspector to be appointed.		<i>Police inspectors 1877-99</i> <i>No.1 Llandilo</i> William Rees (1877-89) Phillip Griffiths (1889-99) <i>No 2 St Clears, Carmarthen</i> * James Saer (-83) William Williams (1884-) Thomas V. Rees q.1892 (1895-99) <i>No.3 Llanelli</i> John Rees (1877-79) John Thomas (1880-99) <i>No. 4 Carmarthen</i> Thomas Hughes (1880-90) John Rees (1890-2)
1880	Another set of standards [1656] verified		
1882	Nos 457-460 issued.	 VR 460	
1892	No.460 withdrawn. Three police constables qualified and were appointed as 'deputy inspectors'. (PC John Jones, PC William Henry Jones, and PC Thomas Vicary Rees.)		



¶ A 1lb weight showing the CARN 3C mark and an 8 oz one with the mark CCN 3C , also from the Three Commotts district.



¶ Detail from a 1lb weight, showing the crowned VR/CN/1 and DN1 marks



¶ Details from two weights, the 1lb bronze one showing the DN2 mark and the 8 oz brass one with the DN2 and VR460 marks

Dates	Events	Marks	Comments
1899	Inspection withdrawn from the police. Two divisions established [MR 99:47-8]. No.457 withdrawn.		<p>Qualified inspectors <i>Eastern division</i> (Llanelli) 458 J. Jones q1892 (1899-1931) [MR 31:191] D. Watkins (1933-44 then chief) [MR 44:3] E. Roberts (1944-1963) [MR 63:27] <i>Western division</i> (Carmarthen) 459 T.V. Rees (q1892-1913) [MR 13:27] D. Roderick (1913-1937 then chief) E. Roberts (1937-1944 moved to E. division)</p>
1937	A chief inspector appointed.		
1974	Authority transferred to Dyfed CC.		<p>Chief inspectors D. Roderick (1937-1944) [MR 44:3] D. Watkins (1944-1966) [MR 66:3] E.G. Nicholls (1966-74) [MR 79:108]</p>

B: Localities with separate WM jurisdiction in the county of CARMARTHENSHIRE

Locality	Status	Marks		Dates & Notes
		Non-uniform	Number pre-1951	
Carmarthen	CCorp MB:1835 cp		620	s:1837 [852]

The seal of Carmarthen depicted a castle or tower with three turrets, which was at one time used as the verification mark. In 1834 Theophilus Howell, a printer, was appointed inspector, although standards were not obtained until 1837. William Llewellyn was the inspector in 1842 [We: 11/3/42], continuing until 1853 [We: 15/9/54] when Samuel Kentish (head constable 1848-70) was temporarily appointed the inspector [We: 23/12/53].

The appointment of the head constable was confirmed in 1854 [PH: 17/2/54] and in 1860 a salary of sixpence per annum was proposed, in response to a recent Act [We: 25/11/59]. Kentish was succeeded as both HC and IWM by Capt D.I. Browne-Edwardes (1871-76), Frank D. Lewis (1876-77), George James (1877-87), Thomas Smith (1887-1911).

In 1890, it was stated that the current stamp consisted of letters signifying 'County of the Borough of Carmarthen' [We: 21/2/90]. The number 620 was issued in 1907 and has been seen with the date 1910. (Although it was stated in 1893 that the borough had made an arrangement with the county, this is not substantiated in the local Carmarthen newspapers.)

From 1912-1917 the high constable was Arthur Mayall, who had qualified in 1904/5. He was succeeded as HC and IWM in 1918 by William Howel Evans, also a qualified inspector, and he continued to be responsible until the borough police force was disbanded in 1944 and inspection was finally transferred to the county.



¶ A 1 lb bronze weight, showing the tower with three turrets, similar to the one featured on the seal of Carmarthen.



¶ Detail from a later 8oz brass weight, showing a slightly modified form of the tower.



¶ A weight stamped with the letters CBC, possibly signifying the County of the Borough of Carmarthen.



¶ A weight stamped ER620 and the date 1910.

Locality	Status	Marks		Dates & Notes
		Non-uniform	Number pre-1951	
Kidwelly	AncBo Unref MB:1883	 ?	225	s:1826 [183]

The presumed mark has not been seen on weights, as yet.

In 1834 James Prickett, a cordwainer, was inspector. In 1865, the inspector reported that the WM were in a satisfactory state [*We: 16/1/65*]. In 1869, the authority of John Evans as IWM was contested at the Llanelly County Court: the prosecution argued that he was not licensed by the Mayor under the Corporation Act, holding no written appointment; the defence case, that the Municipal Act quoted did not hold for a borough by Royal Charter and that Evans was properly appointed, was upheld [*We: 22/10/69*]. The number 225 was issued in 1879. The borough was disqualified in 1889 because the population was less than 10,000. In 1891, all the standard measures, together with two small scales and the weights under 1 lb were offered for sale, the larger weights being retained for use with the market scales [*CJ: 18/12/91*].

Llanelli. Standards [53] were issued to 'Llanelli' in 1825, but they were apparently always used as the county set for the Three Commotts district. When Owen Thomas was appointed IWM for the district in 1855, his predecessor told him the weights in use had not been reverified for 25 years [*PH: 19/10/55*]. The standards were re-verified for the county in 1856. In the 1890s the police officer acting as IWM for Llanelli district was John Thomas. He is sometimes misleadingly referred to as part of the 'Llanelli constabulary', although he was a member of the county force.

C: The trade in Carmarthenshire

There are a few scattered references to the sale of scales and weights in the nineteenth century.

1851: Auction Sale of the the remaining part of the stock of the late Messrs Edward **Jones** and Sons, Ironmonger, of King St, Carmarthen, to include “Scales, Scale Beams and Weights, Spirit and Ale Measures” [*We: 28/3/51*].

1851: A weight stamped by the IWM for the “County of the Borough of Carmarthen” for Mr D.R. **Jones**, Ironmonger, of Upper Market St, Carmarthen, and sold by him, was later found to be deficient. The then inspector, William Llewellyn, had no recollection of stamping the weight, and not one of his stamping irons corresponded to the impressed mark on the weight. It was conjectured that the weight might have been one obtained from Mr Bright, who kept a large stock of weights “that had been stamped years before” [*We: 31/10/51*].

1865: Under the headline “Serious Charge against the Inspector of Weights and Measures”, one of the witnesses in a case at the Llandovery PS claimed that Mr **Parry**, then the IWM for District No 1, had queried “Why did you not buy them [two new weights] with me. I sell weights.” Although denied by the IWM, the case, that an IWM had been accused of the illegal act of selling weights, was referred to the QS [*We: 23/6/65*]. As Parry continued in post to 1877, no serious action can have been taken against him.

The firm of W&T **Avery** advertised its presence at Murray St, Llanelli, at least for the period 1910-34.

References for Carmarthenshire

Published Works

Directories:

H: Hunt & Co's Directory and Topography for the City of Gloucester, and the Towns of Aberayron, etc N250 1849

K: Kelly's Directory of (Monmouthshire and) South Wales ST1689 1871, 1891-1926

P: Pigot's Directory for Berks.... N & S Wales N78 1844

Sc: Scammell & Co's City of Bristol and South Wales Directory ST32, N317 1852

Sla: Slater's Directory of South Wales ST34, N97 1852

Slb: Slater's Directory of South Wales, with Bristol ST1694 1880

TD: North and South Wales Trade Directory ST1702 1934

Web: Webster & Co Postal and Commercial Directory of the City of Bristol and Counties of Glamorgan and Monmouthshire ST44 1865

Wo: Worrall's Directory of South Wales ST1691 1875

Newspapers:

Cam: The Cambrian 1835

CJ: Carmarthen Journal and Weekly Advertiser 1889-1901

Carm: The Carmarthen Weekly Reporter 1878-1901

PH: Pembrokeshire Herald and General Advertiser 1846-55

We: The Welshman 1835-1901

WM: Western Mail 1869-95